

Services of Worship
Sundays

- Spencer 9am
- Riplinger 11am



Connect

January 2025

Spencer Congregation: Parish Office
210167 State Hwy 13
Spencer, WI 54479
715-659-5158
Email: sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

Riplinger Congregation:
W1776 2nd Avenue, Spencer

Website
www.stjohnsspencer.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/sjlSpencer

Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/spencerst.johns/>

YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer>

Minister of Faith Formation
Jenny Nieman
Email: jennyfaith659@gmail.com
Cell: 715-613-3636

Parish Secretary
Pam Hardrath
Wednesday 5:30 to 9 pm
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com
For immediate assistance, call or text Pam
at 715-507-0549

Deadlines

- Weekly email: **Tuesdays 9am**
- Sunday announcements:
Wednesday 5pm
- Monthly newsletter:
20th of each month

Due to the numerous activities occurring in the building we are asking that the first person to arrive after it snows, please shovel a few swipes in front of the door and at least one side of the sidewalk by the bell tower. Thank you for your cooperation.



More information throughout the newsletter!

January 5 & 19 Spencer Q & A Meeting

January 6 at 6:30pm: Message Meeting

January 8 at 8pm: Mission Trip Planning Meeting

January 10 to 12: Youth Districts Weekend in Green Bay

January 12: Christmas decorating clean up after worship at Spencer.

January 19: Riplinger's Annual Meeting

January 26: Spencer's Annual Meeting

January 28 at 5pm: COME Meal

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays, JAM and Mom's Connect at 10:15am

Tuesdays, Psalms Bible Study at 6:30pm.

Wednesdays, Life Lessons Bible Study at 9am (begins Jan. 15)
Optional Supper at 6pm

Cross Training and LIVE at 6:30pm.

Thursdays, January 9 & 23, Men's Group at 6:30pm.

POINSETTIAS:

In Spencer poinsettias were given by:

In honor of Jean and Leon, by Jerry & Petie Marten.

In memory of Alvera & Walter Kleis, by Ron & Gwen Schmidt

In gratitude for family and friends, and God's blessings, by Teri Schorer.

In memory of Herman Ackman and Theresa Seehafer, by Doug & Tracey Ackman & family.

In honor of Robert & Audrey Helsten, by the Helsten Children.

In honor of our daughter, Lisa who was born on Christmas Eve, by Allen & Gail Jicinsky.

In memory of past relatives & friends, in celebration of relatives & friends, by Inez Fosberg.

In memory of Riley Shupe, Harold Hederer, Randy Hederer, by Darlene & Roger Shupe & family.

In loving memory of Ralph Schmidt and Kathy Kaiser, by Keith & Danielle Schmidt and Karrie & Josh Kaiser and families.

In memory of Cliff and blessings for children, grandchildren and first great grandchild, by Janet Ammons.

In memory of my loving husband, dad and grandpa, Gary Grieser. We miss you so much! In memory of Karen and Gary Grieser's parents, brother and son, by Karen Grieser.

Readings

January 5

1 Kings 3:4-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52

January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7
Romans 6:1-11
Luke 3:15-22

January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3; 5-6; 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Luke 4:16-30

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER AT SPENCER,

8:30am

Please join others in prayer for our congregation. Whoever joins in each week will be encouraged to humbly ask the Lord to send His Holy Spirit to lead, renew, revive and bless our congregation and its leaders and prepare us for our next pastor and to pray for that pastor.

Ring in the new year means new opportunities. Part of moving into the future is looking at the past learning missed opportunities and bettering the future. As we move forward from Pastor Jeff Siegel's resignation, there is a lot of work to be done. As expected, we will have a joint call committee including Spencer and Riplinger members in the future. There are no plans to unyoke. To give a brief timeline of events, Pastor Jeff notified the Spencer St. John's council of his intent to resign on Nov. 25. At this time, Pastor Jeff was asked to consider a sabbatical. Spencer and Riplinger councils met the following 2 Tuesdays to discuss two paths; a sabbatical package and the processes moving forward without a pastor. Ultimately Pastor Jeff notified the councils of his resignation effective Jan. 1, 2025. Throughout these couple weeks the councils decided to keep the situation privy to council to allow Pastor Jeff to make a genuine decision. The councils also agreed to postpone any Call Committee discussions until after Christmas as to keep the focus on Christmas. What does the future look like moving forward? I ask everyone to read Pastor's resignation letter. Read it, reflect on it, pray about it, and ask questions about it. We have several things to work through to include conflict that has entangled itself into the church, potential revision of the pastoral benefit package, potential restructuring of the council, and close examination of the congregation's expectations of the pastoral role. We cannot move forward without the congregation's help.

First, we need to hold ourselves accountable in following Christ's model. We need to love one another regardless of opinions, personal conflicts, biasness or past. Second, It takes an entire congregation to create a thriving church. This is what separates a church from THE Church. It takes everyone to keep the Church operational regardless of if a pastor is employed. I am asking everyone to pray and help in the coming time in whatever capacity you are able. The council is looking at options to better utilize our time and talent sheets. Please look forward to this in the near future. We will also be holding townhall meetings to answer questions and gain an understanding of the needs of the congregation as seen by the congregation. Communication and transparency will be the key more so now than ever. I openly invite everyone to ask council members to clarify questions, read council meeting minutes, and attend council meetings on the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6:30pm.

God loves you and so do I
Rudy Nieman



UPCOMING EVENTS

1 John 1:7: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV

ANNUAL MEETING

January 19 at Riplinger
January 26 at Spencer
Annual reports will be available soon!



MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING

January 8, 8pm

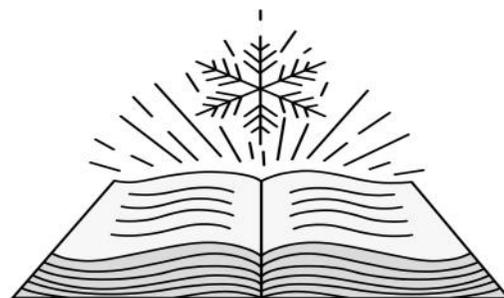
Mission Trip Planning Meeting for anyone middle school and older interested in going on the Mission Trip to Scranton, PA, July 20 to 26. Contact person- Jenny Nieman 715-613-3636

jennyfaith659@gmail.com



Q & A MEETINGS IN SPENCER

Following worship on
January 5 & 19
Discussion surrounding Pastor
Jeff's resignation.



WINTER BIBLE STUDY

LIFE LESSONS

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

January 1 to February 19, 9am

Cost of the book is \$6, payable to Gail Jicinsky. Life Lessons from 1, 2 & 3 John & Jude by Max Lucado. Make these two words your guide for life: LOVE and TRUTH. What inspires you? A personal motto? A quote that directs your daily life? The letters written by the apostles John and Jude focused on two simple words that define our life and permeate our actions: *love* and *truth*. These letters are full of insights and direction along with warnings and encouragement...all based on these two words. These words remind us that God supplies all we need...that there is a real purpose to generosity; there are times to be tolerant and times to take a stand; and that faith includes certainties. Love and truth remind us of the life-changing power in the gospel message. Want a guide to how to live? Study John's and Jude's letters of love and truth. Contact Gail Jicinsky to register and order a book. 715-650-0720 or gjicinsky@gmail.com

SHARE THE MESSAGE OR LEAD WORSHIP MEETING

January 6, 6:30pm

Pastor Jeff will continue to serve as Riplinger's Pastor and share the message weekly in Riplinger. Please prayerfully consider sharing the message or leading worship in Spencer. At this meeting, we will set up a schedule and plan for sharing the message and serving as assisting minister. Please attend if you are interested in helping or have questions. Contact Pam 715-507-0549 or sjlcoffice13@gmail.com if you have questions or are able to serve but are unable to attend.

MORE INFORMATION

1 John 4:18: There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. CSB



COMMUNITY GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the giving tree event! I am amazed by your generosity. Thanks to you, 8 families will have a little more joy this Christmas. Thank you, Lori Kops

Thank you Lori for all of the time, effort and work you put into the Christmas Giving Tree this year. We appreciate you! Thank you!



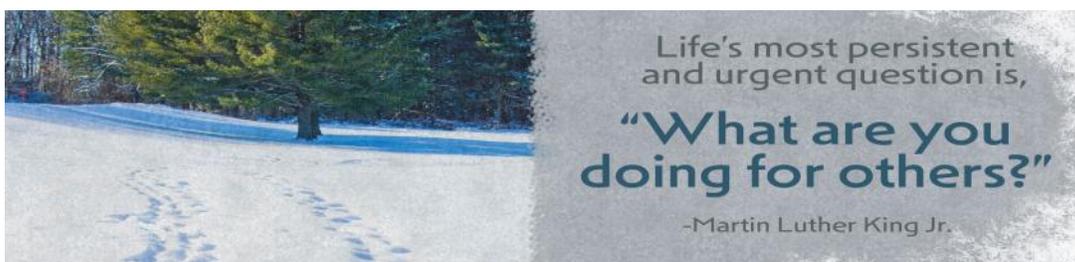
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR “LITTLE JESUS”!

On December 18, the middle and high school youth had a reverse Christmas party, instead of the youth playing games and having snacks; they did service projects to serve the congregation. The service projects were: baking Christmas goodies for hospitality following the Christmas worship services, they made Gospel bracelets for the kids bags that were given to young kids who attended the Christmas worship services and they hid 110 Little Jesus' throughout the church building for folks of all ages to find and take home with them. If you find a Little Jesus please take it home with you to remind you that we all need a “little Jesus” in our lives OR feel free to share it with someone you know who may need that same reminder. Happy hunting for Little Je-



THANK YOU!

Audrey and I would like to thank our church family for the food/meals you provided us over the calendar year. We are grateful for all of your kindness and love. Thanks again from the bottom of our hearts. Love, Bob and Audrey Helsten



MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION

You who are young, be happy while you are young,
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Ecclesiastes 11:9 NIV
Questions contact Jenny: jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636



On December 15, students made ornaments to be mailed out to shut ins from both congregations. Reminder JAM resumes on January 5.



Districts Youth Conference: We will be sending 15 participants to the annual Districts Youth Conference in Green Bay this year: Pam & Travis Hardrath, Todd Brinkman, Jenny Nieman, Keely Schuh, Ariana Krueger, Caelyn Vogel, Brooklyn Stoiber, Tahneya Anderson, Wyatt Karl, Wylie Seefeldt, Danica Plaskey, Rachel Nieman, Ryan Hardrath, and Nathan Gronski. Please include this group in your prayers, for safe travel to and from; deep spiritual conversations en route and during the event; impactful worship and seminars and closer relationships with Jesus for all of them. (Copyright photo from Districts website)



Cross Training & LIVE: resumes January 8. **Wednesdays, 6pm. Wednesday Night Suppers Needed:** Thank you to everyone who has provided meals from September through December, we truly appreciate your generosity. WOW! There are only 10 Wednesdays that need someone to provide a meal for the rest of the year!! If your family hasn't signed up yet, please sign up. You can pick the dates that work for you, you can do one of the duties or stay for all, it's your choice. Questions, talk with Jenny. Sign up [here](#) or on the bulletin board. The guidelines are [here](#) if you would like more information. Thank you!



Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bible Camp Scholarship Fund. The annual Butter Braid fundraiser will begin February 19 and end on March 4. You can order from

youth in the entry way February 23 & March 2. Proceeds will go to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund to help send kids to Bible Camp and aid youth to attend retreats and conferences.

MISSION TRIP—SCRANTON, PA, JULY 19-27, 2025

Questions: Please contact our Minister of Faith Formation Jenny Neiman jennyfaith659@gmail.com or 715-613-3636



2025 Mission Trip July 19 to 27. The trip is open to any youth currently in 8th grade-adults. The next planning meeting is January 8, 8 pm. Applications and a \$50 deposit are required to reserve your spot.



Club 52 Fundraiser the participants going on the mission trip will be sending out letters to family and friends asking for their support. If you would like to contribute to Club 52 there are Club 52 letters on the bulletin board, you can fill in a youth's name or can leave it blank and it will go to the fund for the entire trip. Thank you for your support!

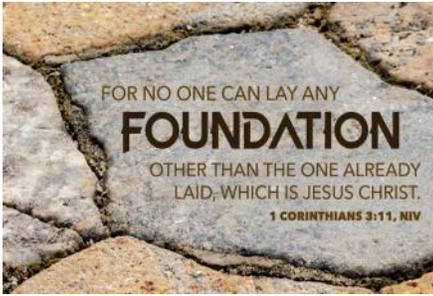


2025 Basket Raffle The basket raffle will begin on March 5. If you would like to donate a themed basket for the raffle the mission trip participants would be grateful! Baskets or items to add to a basket can be brought to church and placed in Jenny's office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jenny.



Save the Date! May 1 & 2, 2025 will be the Rummage Sale.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH / FOUNDATIONS



1. Complete the Foundations worksheets during 8th grade (Your Floor).
2. Complete 1 discipling session and after **EACH** Foundations worksheet is finished, schedule a follow up session.
3. LIVE the Foundations Wednesday nights in 9th & 10th grades. (Your Wall & Roof) Supper & social time at 6pm.
4. Meet with Jenny or another adult about your relationship with Jesus after turning 16, (Your Key to Home!)
5. Affirmation of Faith service, spring of sophomore year (*or later if you want*).
6. LEADERSHIP during LIVE & other settings during 11th & 12th grades

fulfill your Affirmation of Faith by trying out leadership, assistant leadership & other forms of service & involvement during LIVE, Church & Community!

NOTE: Adults are welcome to try the Foundations worksheets as a refresher!

- Please share any logistical or situational needs so we can adapt this with you :).
- The whole process is to help youth become followers of Jesus & part of his church. Followers have a personal relationship with Jesus & thank him through serving others.

Contact person– Jenny Nieman, Minister of Faith Formation– 715-613-3636 or jennyfaith659@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas Program from the actors to the leaders. You did a wonderful job and it was enjoyed by all!





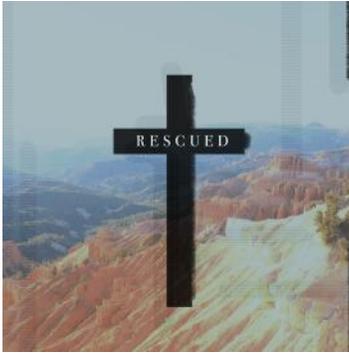
Twenty Faithful Friends gathered on a VERY cold December day but warmed up quickly in the fun and fellowship we enjoyed as we celebrated Christmas. All were immediately challenged in Charla Hagen's "Whatchamacallit" game where we tried to identify what the objects were that were hidden in tiny cloth bags. There was a 4-way tie between Jan Ammons, Randi Thompson, Lilli Weis and Allen Jicinsky. Allen guessed the lucky number (which happened to be his birthday) and was awarded chocolate spoons and mini marshmallows for hot chocolate. Then we sat in a circle and "Passed the Gift" to the appropriate person by the directives Gail provided. When all the passing was finally done, Ila Meacham ended up with the gift which was a container of fudge and an Amaryllis plant. Wayne Hagen loaded up some Christmas Carols on You Tube that we sang along with on the big screen TV. Mary Seefeld shared the special meaning behind the Christmas Wreath – a circle reminding us that God's love for us never ends. The Christmas Tree points up to heaven and reminds us God is eternal. The candle shines brightly, showing us that Jesus is the light of the world. Gail shared a devotion focused on the Shepherds who were trusted with the Good News and who shared it with everyone, as we should too! By then it was time to eat. Lunch was provided by Charla, Gail, Lilli, Jan, Inez Fosberg and Karen Grieser. Pastor Jeff arrived just in time to join us for lunch. This also was an opportunity to tell him how we really feel about his leaving our congregation as we pelted him with 'snowballs' which Wayne Hagen provided. After lunch we each got to pick a mystery gift that each of the guests brought and Randi ended up with a beautiful Poinsettia door prize. Mary then taught us how to make some fun Christmas decorations and assemble Holiday Simmer Pot ingredients. Some gathered at a table to play card games, and were still playing even after all the clean-up was finished! Obviously, they were having fun! I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mary and Charla for working with me to plan this special event.

WHAT'S NEXT? – A break! Watch for announcements for 2025 Faithful Friends Events which will start again in spring. Please send your ideas to me about what you would like to do or where you would like to go. I am also hoping a few Faithful

Friends would jump in and assist with the planning of an event or two. Let me know if you are willing. A very Blessed and Happy New Year to you All!
Gail Jicinsky,
Faithful Friends Coordinator
ph:715-650-0720



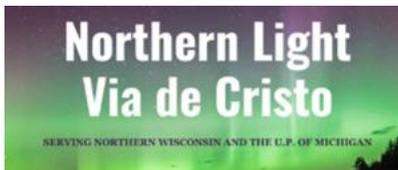
ADULT FAITH FORMATION



NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 1, 8am to 4:30pm

Colossians 1:13-14 is the theme. Join over 15,000 men from around the world for a day of high energy live worship, simulcast and live break out sessions, local and national speakers. A day of transforming men's lives by empowering them to walk in loving, trusting, obedience of Jesus Christ. Cost; \$20. includes lunch. Contact Travis Hardrath 715-507-0548 if you are interested in attending. Faith Fellowship in Marshfield is a host site.



Adult Faith Renewal Opportunity- Via de Cristo March 6-9, 2025 at Forest Springs, Westboro. A Via de Cristo weekend is 3 days long... but lasts a lifetime. Its aim is to zoom in for an extreme close-up of the teachings of Christ so that we, who are enveloped and entranced by the brilliance of the secular world, can experience His love. During the three days of Via de

Cristo, attendees listen to 14 talks given by laypeople and clergy. Following each talk, small group table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. In an overlapping fashion, the talks present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal. During a Via de Cristo weekend, people from all walks of life grow closer to one another. They worship, listen, and sing in a joyful family atmosphere. Men and women will be separated for most activities including learning, discussing, and sleeping at separate locations within camp. A spirit of fellowship and a rustic camp atmosphere makes for a special weekend. Good food and snacks are abundant. Anyone wanting more information about attending or greater detail can find a brochure in the rack at Spencer, contact Jenny Nieman, Travis Hardrath, Todd Brinkman, or Rudy Nieman.



Audrey Helsten
106469 Highway 153
Spencer, WI 54479

ADDRESSES

Grace Maines
Touch of Home
9787 Ives St.
Marshfield, WI 54449

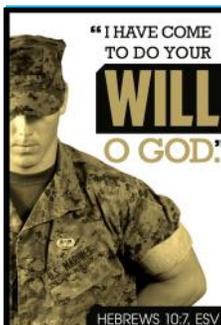
Muriel Oelrich
211763 Mystyc Ave
Spencer, WI 54479

Lois Block
402 Dehne Dr
Colby, WI 54421

Jim Schmutzler
N11245 Maple St
Spencer, WI 54479

Doris Seefeld
312 Dehne St
Colby, WI 54421

Pat Miller
N9934 Groveside Ave
Spencer, WI 54479



MILITARY ADDRESSES

SPC Gardner Leah
C Co 2/278 (T F Reaper)
APO, AE, 09330

Schillinger Caden Spc.
C-Co 2/278 ACR.
TF Reaper
APO, AE, 09330

COUNCIL POSITIONS

Any active member at Spencer (having communed and given financially within the last 24 months) has the opportunity to serve on the Church Council. In preparation for congregation elections at the Annual Meeting, we are in need of nominations for all of the positions listed below. You may indicate your own interest or nominate other individuals from the congregation by contacting Rudy Nieman, 715-223-9579. All names submitted will be contacted to secure a commitment and willingness to serve if elected.

Vice-Chair (2 years - 1 year as Vice chair followed by 1 year as Chairperson) - The first year of this position as vice chair has the primary responsibility of learning the topics and issues before taking over the second year as the chair (see above); preside at meetings in absence of the chair and serve as chair of the nomination committee.

Recording Secretary (1 year term) - Keep accurate minutes of meetings of the Congregation Council and of the congregation; keep an accurate record of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, and any updates or changes as they occur; maintain an accurate list of membership of all committees and boards; conduct correspondence as necessary.

Financial Secretary (1 year term) - Receive all incoming contributions; Deposit all contributions into the appropriate financial institution with deposits designated for specific budget categories; Order and provide members with individually numbered traceable envelopes; serve as chair of the counting committee.

Worship Director (1 year term) - works with the pastor and worship planning team to prepare and organize meaningful worship services that inspire, uplift, and encourage. This includes communications and coordination of the various elements of worship including training and scheduling of persons serving in worship; communion setup; technology; music; decorating and worship arts; helping with the planning and coordination of ecumenical worship services; and maintenance of musical instruments.

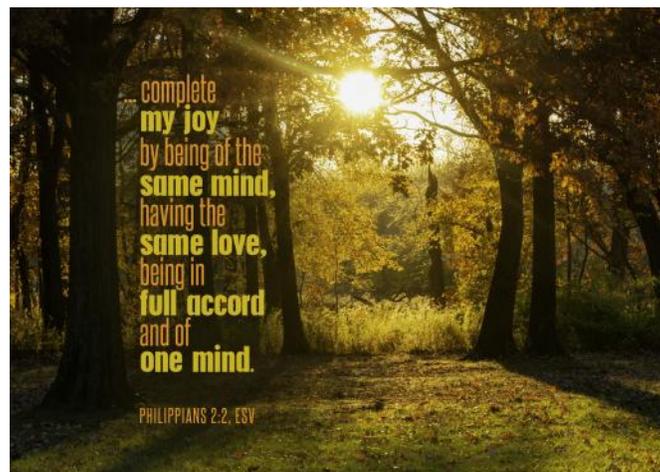
Beyond Our Doors Director (1 year term) - help members of the congregation understand and respond to needs within the community, the nation, and the world so that the congregation can demonstrate God's love and serve those in need. This includes support and coordination of the following: Community Outreach Meal for Everyone (COME), food pantry, giving tree, community care walk, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, and other local, national, and international needs as they arise.

Congregational Care Director (1 year term) – To facilitate and encourage activities which support and care for all members of our Congregation through supporting the development of their spiritual and physical well-being. Coordinate new member orientation, assist with visitor follow up, arrange visits with members of the congregation who are hospitalized, home bound or reside in long term care facilities.

Food, Fellowship and Fellowship Director Plan and organize ways to celebrate as a congregation together to build strong relationships. Organize church wide function and other functions as needed to promote and encourage the congregation to share their talents, food and blessings. Reach out beyond our doors to our community to involve them when possible.

Buildings and Grounds (1 year term) – working with volunteers, this position is responsible for the overall care, maintenance, and improvement of the church's facilities and grounds to ensure a safe and well-maintained facility

Cemetery Committee (1 person for a 3 year term) – responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church cemetery.



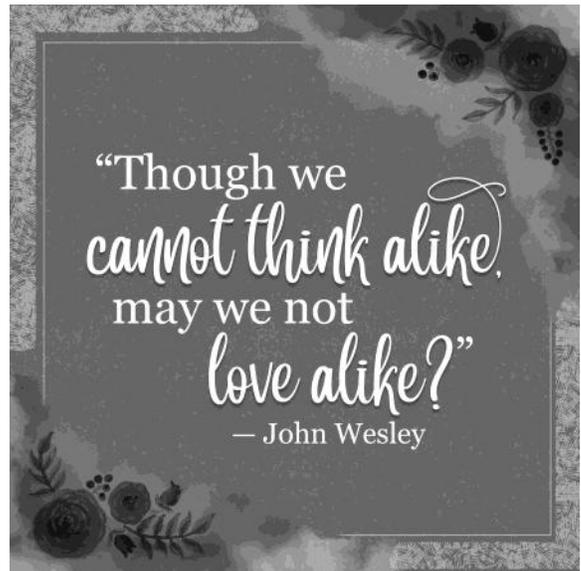


- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Holly Bauer | David Buse |
| 4 Bridget Cloud | William Nigon |
| Payton Porter | 21 Patty Behrens |
| 6 James Hopfensperger | Shinae Reynolds |
| 7 Jonathon Berres | Danica Weber |
| Arianna Gorst | 22 Karen Seefeld |
| 8 Jayson Dekarske | Lucinda Hardrath |
| Audrey Hopfensperger | Kinzleigh Bant |
| 9 Marsha Martens | 23 Kevin Gaetz |
| Camdyn Vogel | 24 Patty Soltow |
| 10 Peggy Labrenz | Maria Seefeld |
| 11 Leila Seefeld | 25 Corey Seefeldt |
| 12 Jerry Marten | Justin Burns |
| Sam Nigon | 26 Kylie Gilmore |
| 14 Adeline Nieman | 28 Joseph Matter |
| Cohley Vogel | Paisley Wiernik |
| 15 Britney Porter | 30 Derek Buse |
| Qwyntyn Schmidt | Peggy Christopherson |
| 16 Barb Seefeld | Troy Hardrath |
| 17 Allen Jicinsky | Les Dommer |
| Donald Newman | 31 Nathan Gronski |
| 18 Andrew Anderson | |

May the love of Christ shine through your marriage!

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 9 Wayne & Charla Hagen | 43 years |
| 14 Donald & Dorene Newman | 69 years |
| Gerald & Dorothy Marten | 35 years |
| 18 Brad & Lori Helsten | 18 years |
| 23 Dave & Tracy Weber | 19 years |

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.



PRAYER LIST



Those with short term health concerns: Nancy Jonas, Scarlett Droske, Susan Howe, Karla Kilty, Mia Maddox, Dorene Newman, Jim Reckner, Dawn Wood.

Those with long term health concerns: Audrey Heldt, Elroy Heldt, Audrey Helsten, Sandy Lemmens, Bill Martens, Tammi Schiferl, Darrell Schillinger.

Those with cancer: Candyce DeNoble, Judi Andrew, Nikki Duranceau, Ruth Fleischman, Brenda Gardner, Wayne Hendrickson, Sue Johnson, Michelle

Oelke, Tom Steiner, Wayne Vaughn.

Those who are homebound or in care facilities: Lois Block, Grace Maines, Pat Miller, Muriel Oelrich, Doris Seefeld.

Those in the military: Leah Gardner, Caden Schillinger

If you or a member of your family are hospitalized or have an emergent need, or to update prayer requests, please contact the office at sjlcoffice13@gmail.com or text/call Pam at 715-507-0549.

SERVING IN WORSHIP



Please contact the office if you are available to serve in open spaces. Thank-you!
sjlcoffice13@gmail.com

If you would like to usher, do tech or sound, be a communion Assistant or acolyte, provide hospitality or read parts of the service, please let the [office](#) know.

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26	February 2
Greeter	Bob & Glenda	Nancy Dietsche	Faye Lang	Teri Schorer	Randi Thompson
Usher	Harry Vogel	Jim Christopherson	Keith Schmidt	Travis Hardrath	Milt Viergutz
Usher	Todd Brinkman	Brad Helsten	Alan Jicinsky	Alan Seefeld	Joe Weix
Tech	Camdyn Vogel	Jenny Nieman	Devyn Schmidt	Kyler Hardrath	Teri Schorer
Sound	Tracey Ackman	Rachel Nieman	Qwyntyn Schmidt	Ryan Hardrath	Brooke Cloud
Reader	Glenda Fellenz	Ashley Stroetz	Gail Jicinsky	Mary Seefeld	Penni Cloud
Communion Assistant	Jule Vogel	Lori Helsten	Jenny Nieman	Mary Seefeld	Penni Cloud
Acolyte					
Basket Bearer		Brooklynn Stroetz			
Hospitality	Teri Schorer	Ashley Stroetz	Gail Jicinsky	Pam Hardrath	Penny Vinnedge
Riplinger Reader	Ertl's	Dave Newman	Heidi McBride	Brenda Newman	Trish Porter

Sermons Are Online

YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsSpencer> or
www.stjohnsspencer.com

Attendance	Spencer 9am	Riplinger 11am	Spencer 6:30pm
Novem10ber 3	55	11	22
November 10	No count	28	15
November 17	87	18	8
November 24	58	15	4



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00am Worship at Spencer 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	30 4:30pm Rising Dance Academy	31	1 	2	3	4
5 9:00am Worship at Spencer followed by Q & A 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	6	7 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Psalms Bible Study 6:30pm Spencer Council Meeting	8 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE 8:00pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting	9 4:30pm Rising Dance Academy 6:30pm Men's Group	10 Districts Youth Event	11 Districts Youth Event
12 Districts Youth Event 9:00am Worship at Spencer 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 10:15am RaiseRight Card Sale 11:00am Worship at Riplinger, Communion	13	14 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Psalms Bible Study	15 9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	16 4:30pm Rising Dance Academy	17	18
19 9:00am Worship at Spencer followed by Q & A 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger followed by Annual Meeting	20	21 4:30pm Rising Dance 6:30pm Psalms Bible Study	22 9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	23 4:30pm Rising Dance Academy 6:30pm Men's Group	24	25
26 9:00am Worship at Spencer followed by Annual Meeting 10:15am JAM & Mom's Connect 11:00am Worship at Riplinger	27	28 4:30pm Rising Dance 5:00pm COME Meal 6:30pm Psalms Bible Study	29 9:00am Life Lesson Bible Study 5:30pm Secretary in Office 6:00pm Optional Supper 6:30pm Cross Training & LIVE	30 4:30pm Rising Dance Academy	31	1

SPENCER COUNCIL MINUTES

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer Council Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2024, 6:30 pm. Approved on December 17, 2024

Attending: Pastor Jeff, Rudy Nieman, Pam Hardrath, Jenny Nieman, Nick Tomczik, Marsha Martens, Teri Schorer, Mary Seefeld, Travis Hardrath, Guests: Peggy Labrensz, Heather Vogel, Todd Brinkman

Call to order by Rudy Nieman at 6:30pm
God Sightings/Gratitude outside of church.

Recipe Book-Improvements- What went well

Polka Worship and Silver Sunday, Trunk or Treat, Mon's Group, Funeral Ministry Meeting, Care Notes for families who have lost loved ones are well received.

Popcorn:

Nuts & Bolts

New Business:

MSA Teri/Marsha, motion to terminate our contract with Right Now Media due to nonuse.

MSA Pam/Teri, motion to approve Mission Trip Fundraisers, Basket Raffle during Lent, Rummage Sale on May 1 and 2, Club 52.

Council Reports: will be submitted by the director in each area before the council meeting, should include what went well (celebrate), ask for help if there is a barrier in your area, and possibility thinking for the future.

Each council member was asked to think about their area over the last year. Is there an area that could have been improved upon, any missed opportunities or future possibilities, what went well, and make a list of improvements to focus on for the December meeting. Consider your role and the ministry area as a whole. Pastor and Rudy will be meeting with each director and reviewing the council positions and making revisions as needed. Revisions would be voted on by congregation at annual meeting.

Pastor is reaching out to people to see if they would like to lead Financial Peace University for congregation and community members.

Old Business:

Raise the Roof: Heather Vogel volunteered to chair the Raise the Roof campaign. She will form a team, create a structure of the capital campaign, amount needed to complete project along with redoing the cross and possibly mounting it elsewhere, amount raised and a way to record/show for congregation, 7 different ways to contact people, needs a numbers person, current amount raised in building fund. 2025 Annual Meeting: Proposal will be presented by Travis, including removal of shingles, hauling away, reroofing,

cross being taken down, redone, put wherever council decides to put it (further discussion needed). Also, a proposal for the blacktop.

Complete breakdown, removal and redone.

Discussed the parking lot and making sure in the future we properly maintain it every 3 years.

2025 Annual Meeting, council will propose changing director to coordinator. Encouraging developing a team in each ministry area, team reports to the coordinator, coordinator reports to council.

2025 Annual Meeting proposal: Paid staff will not be part of the executive team. The team will be chosen by council at the February meeting.

2025 Annual Meeting; Full time and talents list will be shared.

REPORTS:

PASTORAL MINISTRY:

2 Sunday 9AM Services & Messages at Spencer

Sunday 11AM Services & Messages at Riplinger

1 Sunday 10am Combined Congregation Service at Spencer (Polka/Silver)

3 Monday 6:30 PM Services

* Sermon Videos & Sermon Scripts are posted weekly on our church website

3 Hospital/Hospice Home visits

10 Shut-in visits

1 Baptism (Bowen Jacobson)!

Various new SHORT Youtube videos of Church activities & of Riplinger!

SERVING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE:

1 Young Men's Retreat

1 Funeral Committee Meeting

1 Routine Council Meeting (Spencer)

1 Worship Committee meeting (canceled)

1 Community Thanksgiving Service Meeting

1 Shift For Parish Directory Check-in Desk

1 Phone meeting with vice-chair

1 COME MEAL

1 Men's Group

3 Youth Group Suppers & 1 Foundations Introduction On Opening Night

5 Bible Study Groups

Weekly collaboration with Jenny and Pam re: youth and church operations

IN THE WORKS:

Instagram or YouTube short videos for outreach or education

MISC. & OUTREACH:

1 LCMC Area Pastors Meeting

1 LCMC National Meeting (Sun-Wed)

Secretary's Report (Pam Hardrath)

MSA Jenny/Nick to approve October minutes as written.

Treasurer Report (Teri Schorer)

Moving forward to conserve paper and ink, the income, disbursements and difference for the Treasurers Report will be included in the newsletter instead of the whole report.

Income: \$10,425.53 Disbursements: \$11955.01

Difference: \$-1529.48

3rd quarter tithe will be shared with Interfaith of Clark County.

4th quarter tithe will be shared with Peter Hinrichs if he is at a point where his mission is ready to go. Pastor Jeff is reaching out to him.

Buildings and Grounds (Travis Hardrath)

Room is textured. Waiting for youth to pick a color.

Congregational Care (Marsha Martens)

Jan Ammons sent a thank you card in appreciation for the birthday card she received.

Next Meeting: 6:30pm on December 10, 2024

Motion to Adjourn: MSA Marsha/Teri.

Lord's Prayer Closing

Respectfully submitted: Pam Hardrath

NOVEMBER FUNDS RECAP

Income: \$11,236.00

Expenses: \$12,212.79

Negative balance of: \$976.79



Weather Policy

Our policy for weather-related cancellations and closures is for the safety and well-being of the staff, volunteers and participants in our many activities, including Sunday worship. We are aware that holding church activities when roadways are hazardous may endanger the staff and volunteers who travel in order to help lead such activities, as well as those who may choose to participate. Accordingly, our policy is always to put safety first.

Worship Service Cancellation

In inclement weather or extreme temperatures (-25 or colder), the Worship Leader and Council Chairperson will make a decision whether or not to cancel worship service. This decision will be made by 6:30 am prior to worship on Sundays and by 4:30pm during the week. The cancellation information will be found on our Facebook page, via phone message on the church voicemail and via email to the congregation. Updates will be posted by Pam Hardrath or Jenny Nieman.

